

at Monomoy Island, near Chatham, Massachusetts, and now in my collection. It would seem, therefore, either that Forster's Tern has ceased to visit the New England coast at all regularly or frequently, or that its occurrence in small numbers during several successive seasons prior to 1879, was purely fortuitous. The former is perhaps the more probable hypothesis, for nearly all our water birds have decreased in numbers during the past decade, and none among them more considerably than the Terns—the chosen victims of the millinery collectors.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Notes on Brewster's and the Blue-footed Gannet.—Early in October, 1888, Mr. E. J. Reed of Guaymas, Mexico, did me the very great kindness of capturing alive, and presenting me with a specimen each of the above-named birds (*Sula brewsteri* and *S. gossi*). They were taken at San Pedro Martir Isle of the Gulf of California, and expressed to Fort Wingate, New Mexico, where they arrived on the 16th of the month, the Blue-footed one having died on the passage, while Brewster's was as lively as if he had just been taken.

In comparing them with Colonel Goss's admirable description of these two new species, published in 'The Auk' for July, 1888, I found them to correspond very closely. Points of the most interest were the dark brown irides in *S. brewsteri*, with their limiting circle of white, the strongly pectinated mid-anterior claws, and the beautiful shade of purplish ultra-marine blue of the feet of *S. gossi*.

After its fast of certainly four or five days I expected to see the surviving Gannet drink a quantity of water, and perhaps eat anything that was offered to it; but, no, upon being placed in a large bath tub of fresh water, it started to vigorously splash and preen itself, as a duck will do under similar circumstances, and then suddenly ceased without apparently drinking a drop, disgusted I imagine at its being *fresh*. I had to force it to eat a few ounces of venison, not having a fish at hand to give it; indeed, I myself have not seen a fresh fish for over four years. The bird was placed next out in the sun, where it seemed to enjoy itself, and arranged with its beak its wetted and rumpled plumage. If one attempted to handle it, however, it struck out vigorously with its sharp-pointed bill, and could inflict quite an ugly wound, as one of my hands will still testify. Next morning my Gannet was more cheerful than ever, but circumstances induced me to kill it with chloroform, and I removed the skins from both specimens and forwarded them to Mr. Robert Ridgway for identification. Upon dissection they proved to be females, and a casual examination of the viscera in each satisfied me that Macgillivray's account of this part of their anatomy, as given in *Aububon*, is a fairly accurate one for *Sula*, though I saw enough besides to satisfy me that a far more thorough description of the structure of these birds is demanded.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, New Mexico.*

***Histrionicus histrionicus* on Long Island, New York.**—I wish to record the capture of a specimen of *Histrionicus histrionicus* taken on Long

Island, New York, Nov. 22, 1878. The bird was a male, not quite, but almost in mature plumage, and was shot in the bay south of Freeport, Long Island, and on account of its oddity brought to me. The specimen is now in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society.—Geo. B. BADGER, *Haywards, California*.

Chen caerulescens in Massachusetts.—On October 26, 1876, I bought of Mr. Tufts, taxidermist, of Lynn, Mass., a mounted Blue Goose, the skin being still fresh, which is now in my possession.

The specimen, a young female, with white on chin only, was shot "in or near Essex Creek, West Parish, Gloucester, Mass., Oct. 20, 1876."—WM. A. JEFFRIES, *Boston, Mass.*

Baird's Sandpiper in Central New York.—While collecting at Onondaga Lake, N. Y., August 27, 1888, I secured a Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*). This appears to be the tenth for New York State; of the others, six have been recorded from Long Island ('Forest and Stream', Vol. X, No. 13, p. 235, May 2, 1878; B. N. O. C., Vol. VII, p. 133, 1882; Auk, Vol. II, p. 273, 1885), one from Locust Grove, Lewis County, by Mr. Henshaw (Auk, Vol. II, p. 384, 1885), and two from Fair Haven, Cayuga County, by Frank R. Rathburn (O. & O., Vol. VII, p. 133, 1882). More stragglers—if such they are—of this bird may be expected from the lakes of western and central New York, during the fall, as numbers of shore-birds visit them at that season.—MORRIS M. GREEN, *Washington, D. C.*

The Northern Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus) in the Franconia Mountains, New Hampshire.—About five years ago, in September, while fishing on Profile Lake, Franconia, N. H., I observed a bird sitting on the water, feeding on winged ants, of which thousands lay on the surface. The bird was fearless, allowed me to approach it in my canoe so closely that I could easily reach it with my landing net (handle not three feet long), and was not alarmed at several attempts I made to put the net gently over him. I observed him for nearly half an hour, constantly within a few feet of him, and then left him. I did not know the bird, and several friends, ornithologists, afterward expressed a wish that I had captured or killed him for examination.

On September 22, 1888, while fishing on Lonesome Lake (about two miles from Profile Lake, on Mt. Cannon, nearly 3000 feet above sea-level), I saw another specimen of the same bird swimming duck-like among the sedges on the edge of the lake. He was equally fearless, allowing me to approach within hand reach, without alarm and without ceasing his employment, which was feeding on the seeds of the sedges. There was no mistake, in either case, as to what the bird was eating—in one case ants, in the other seed. In the latter case I greatly enjoyed watching the rapid and graceful action of the bird as he picked off the seeds, frequently stretching up, almost standing on the water, and reaching to seeds on high sedges. After ten minutes I concluded with great